

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 PA-03

USIA-15 AGR-20 SS-15 NSC-10 TAR-02 RSR-01 /181 W

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R 061345Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1296

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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CORRECTED COPY (PARAS 5 AND 6 RENUMBERED 4 AND 5, AND REF PARA IN
PARA 5 SHOULD READ "(PARA 3A)" VICE "(PARA 4A)"

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAID, XA, EEC

SUBJECT: CAMEROON POSITION ON EC ASSOCIATION

REF: YAOUNDE 2153

1. SUMMARY. OFFICIAL CAMEROON NEWS AGENCY HAS PUBLISHED
"INTERVIEW" SETTING FORTH PRESIDENT AHIDJO'S LATEST ARTICULATION OF
POLICY TOWARD ASSOCIATION WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. WHILE
LARGELY A REPETITION OF PREVIOUSLY STATED ATTITUDES, STATEMENT IS
NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS (A) STRONG PRAISE OF EC COMMISSION MEMOR-
ANDUM AS REALISTIC BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS; (B) ENDORSEMENT OF
FREE TRADE SYSTEM AS CONTRACTUAL GUARANTOR WITHIN GATT RULES
OF ASSOCIATED STATES' ACCESS TO COMMUNITY MARKET; (C) CON-
TINUED STRADDLING OF REVERSE PREFERENCE ISSUE BY INCLUDING
COMMENT THAT FREE TRADE SYSTEM NEED NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE
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PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR COMMUNITY; AND (D) SLAP AT OAU

FOR EXCEEDING AUTHORITY IN RECENT STATEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN "INTERVIEW" PUBLISHED BY CAMEROON NEWS AGENCY (ACAP) AUGUST 2 MOSTLY DEVOTED TO EXPLAINING CAMEROON'S WITHDRAWAL FROM OCAM (SEPTTEL), PRESIDENT AHIDJO ALSO PROVIDED CAREFULLY FRAMED EXPOSITION OF GURC POSITION RE NEW AGREEMENT WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. AHIDJO REFERRED TO POSITION HE HAD SET FORTH DURING JUNE 1973 VISIT OF EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI (REFTTEL) AND POINTED THAT SUBSEQUENTLY THERE HAD BEEN LAGOS MEETING OF AFRICAN MINISTERS, DECLARATIONS OF OAU SEC GEN AND BRUSSELS MEETING BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES. CITED ADDIS DECLARATION ON COOPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AS CODE OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE AFRICAN STATES TOWARD GOAL OF SEEKING MOST EQUITABLE AND ADVANTAGEOUS POSSIBLE EXCHANGES. AFTER MENTIONING POSITIVE ROLE OF OAU AS COORDINATOR OF ACTION OF AFRICAN STATES, AHIDJO POINTEDLY ADDED THAT IT MUST NOT BE FORTGOTTEN THAT OAU IS NOT RPT NOT SUPRANATIONAL ORGANISM AND UNABLE SUBSTITUTE SELF FOR MEMBER STATES EACH OF WHICH HAS OWN PROBLEMS AND PHILOSOPHY OF DEVELOPMENT. THEN STATED: "THUS THE DECLARATIONS EMANATING FROM THE OAU SUGGESTING SUCH OR SUCH A FORMULA OF COOPERATION EXCLUSIVELY ARE CERTAINLY IMPROPER (ABUSIVES)."

3. AHIDJO PRAISED ASSOCIATION BETWEEN EC AND AFRICAN STATES AS BROADLY POSITIVE "IN SPITE OF IMPERFECTIONS INHERENT IN ANY HUMAN WORK." RESTATED THEME OF ASSOCIATED STATES CONSOLIDATING AND INCREASING ALREADY ACQUIRED ADVANTAGES AND IMPROVING MECHANISMS OF COOPERATION. PRAISED EC COMMISSION MEMORANDUM AS REALISTIC AND MENTIONED THERE STILL A VAST AREA TO EXPLORE TO THE EXTENT THAT PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM WAS NOT TO POSE PRECONDITIONS. AMONG PRINCIPLES OF MEMORANDUM WORTH CITING HE NAMED:

(A) MAINTENANCE OF A FREE TRADE SYSTEM WHICH ALONE GUARANTIES TO ASSOCIATED STATES, IN CONFORMITY WITH GATT RULES, FREE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY MARKET. "BUT THIS SYSTEM DOES NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY ENTAIL PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN FAVOR OF THE COMMUNITY."

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(B) STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS FOR EIGHT BASIC COMMODITIES, INVOLVING SYSTEM OF COMPENSATORY PAYMENT TO ASSURE MINIMUM STABLE REVENUE LEVEL WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH NORMAL MARKET MECHANISMS.

(C) SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, WITH GREATER PARTICIPATION OF ASSOCIATED STATES IN ORIENTATION OF AND MANAGEMENT OF AID FUNDS, AND

FINANCING EDF FROM EC BUDGET RATHER THAN MEMBER
STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSURE CONTINUITY OF COMMUNITY AID.

(D) IMPROVEMENT OF TRUE DIALOGUE IN PARITARY INSTITUTIONS.

4. AHIDJO JUDGED THAT AFRICAN STATES WOULD BE BETTER ADVISED
TO THOROUGHLY DISCUSS THESE PRINCIPLES IN AIM OF IMPROVING THEM
IN DIRECTION OF AFRICAN INTERESTS RATHER THAN TO BLOCK DISCUSSION
BY "EXCESSIVE THEORETICAL DOGMATISM."

5. COMMENT: AHIDJO CONTINUES TO STRADDLE ISSUE OF REVERSE
PREFERENCES AND KEEP OPTIONS OPEN (PARA 3A). HIS CRITICISM OF
"IMPROPER" OAU DECLARATIONS MAY BE REBUKE TO NIGERIAN SPOKES-
MEN. BUT MORE LIKELY REFERENCE IS TO STATEMENTS BY OAU
SECGEN EKANGAKI (FORMER CAMEROON MINISTER OF LABOR). IN
LATTER CASE ONE CAN ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT AHIDJO IS SPEAKING
TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SUBJECT AND HIS STATEMENT DOES NOT RPT
NOT INDICATE RIFT WITH EKANGAKI. WHILE EKANGAKI UNLIKELY DO
ANYTHING CONTRARY TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM AHIDJO, IT CAN BE ASSUMED
THAT BOTH AHIDJO AND EKANGAKI HAVE FULL UNDERSTANDING ABOUT
IMPERATIVES OF EKANGAKI'S POSITION AND EKANGAKI FREE
TO MAKE STATEMENTS AS OAU SEC GEN WHICH MIGHT BE AT VARIANCE
WITH GURC POSITION. THRUST OF AHIDJO'S STATEMENT SHOULD BE
WELCOMED BY FRENCH; INDEED, PURPOSE MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO
OFFER SOP TO FRANCE AFTER RECENT DISPLEASING ACTIONS -- WITH-
DRAWAL FROM OCAM AND CAMEROONIAN COMMENTS ON EC-AFRICAN
ASSOCIATION AT ADDIS MEETINGS (PARIS 20581) -- AND IN ANTICIPA-
TION OF VISIT OF SECSTATE FOR COOPERATION DENIAU WHO ARRIVED
YAOUNDE AUGUST 3.
MOORE

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